

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-37 (Cancelled)

Claim 38. (Currently amended) An isolated protein comprising [[an]] the amino acid sequence of according to SEQ ID NO: 4 ~~or a derivative thereof, wherein the derivative thereof has antigenic or immunogenic characteristics of the amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 4.~~

Claim 39. (Previously presented) A vaccine comprising a protein according to Claim 38 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 40. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a protein according to Claim 38, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 41. (Previously presented) A diagnostic composition comprising a protein of Claim 38.

Claim 42. (Previously presented) A diagnostic kit comprising a suitable detection means and a protein according to Claim 38.

Claim 43. (New) An isolated protein comprising an amino acid sequence that has at least 90% sequence identify to SEQ ID NO: 4 and has similar antigenic or immunogenic characteristics as the protein of Claim 38.

Claim 44. (New) A vaccine comprising the protein according to Claim 43 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 45. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the protein according to Claim 43, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 46. (New) A diagnostic composition comprising the protein of Claim 43.

Claim 47. (New) A diagnostic kit comprising a suitable detection means and the protein according to Claim 43.

Claim 48. (New) An isolated protein comprising an amino acid sequence that has at least 95% sequence identify to SEQ ID NO: 4 and has similar antigenic or immunogenic characteristics as the protein of Claim 38.

Claim 49. (New) A vaccine comprising the protein according to Claim 48 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 50. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the protein according to Claim 48, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 51. (New) A diagnostic composition comprising the protein of Claim 48.

Claim 52. (New) A diagnostic kit comprising a suitable detection means and the protein according to Claim 48.